

identification means is a card, said card reader and said card being structured such that said card reader can read said card with the card remaining attached to said operator.

3. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the identification means is a contacting identification device that can remain attached to said operator when said identification means is in said predetermined space, so that said identification means is automatically moved from said predetermined space when said operator leaves said operating field.

4. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 3, wherein the contacting identification device is one of a chip card and a magnetic card.

5. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the identification device is an identification device which operates without contact and can remain attached to said operator when said identification means is in said predetermined space, whereby said identification means is automatically moved from said predetermined space when said operator leaves said operating field.

6. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 5, wherein the identification device is one of a transceiver unit and a

transponder which works together with the counterpart device of the identification system without contact.

7. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 5, wherein a non-contact link between the identification device and the counterpart device is maintained within a local area proximate to said operating field.

8. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the counterpart device has a respective one of a read and write mode by means of which the identification device is respectively one of read from and written on with respective installation- and person-specific data.

9. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 8, wherein there is a read mode by means of which the identification device is read from, and wherein read data is recorded in various X-ray apparatus and is caused to be combined and stored centrally by the identification device.

10. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the counterpart device is integrated into the operating field.

11. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein an individual operator-unit setting is accomplished by means of the identification means, whereby the identification means of a first operator activates the operating unit to a different first mode of operation than would the identification means of the second operator.

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12. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein the operator unit is cleared by the identification device upon the operator unit entering the second different mode of operation upon the operator moving the identification means away from the predetermined space.

13. Canceled

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14. (THRICE AMENDED) The operator unit according to claim 15, wherein a live scanner is also connected upstream from the identification system.

~~SubD3~~
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15. (ONCE AMENDED) An operator unit for an X-ray examining apparatus having a monitor for displaying an X-ray image for an operator, said operator unit comprising:

an operating field for being manipulated by the operator to

operate the operating unit and thereby operate the X-ray examining apparatus and the monitor; and

an identification system, said identification system including an identification means for being carried by the operator and a counterpart device for being operatively coupled to said operating field,

wherein said counterpart device is for activating said operating unit to a first mode of operation when the operator begins to operate the operating unit in at least partial response to information on said identification means read by said counterpart device, and for activating said operating unit to a second different mode of operation in at least partial response to information on said identification means read by said counterpart device when said operator stops operating said X-ray examining apparatus.

(13)

16. An operator unit as in claim 15, wherein said counterpart device is for activating said operating unit to said first mode of operation in at least partial response to said operator carrying said identification means moving said identification means within a predetermined space relative to said counterpart device at which said operator carrying said identification means can manipulate said operating field and for activating said operating unit to said

second different mode of operation in at least partial response to said operator moving said identification means away from said predetermined space.

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17. An operator unit as in claim 16, wherein said identification means is for automatically activating said operating unit to said second different mode of operation in response to said operator moving said identification means away from said predetermined space.

Please add the following new claims:

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18. (NEW) An X-ray examining apparatus comprising:
at least one radiation source;
at least one radiation detector;
a display unit; and
an operator unit including an identification system, said operator unit being placed into either a first mode or second mode of operation depending upon an input from said identification system for controlling said X-ray examining apparatus,
wherein said identification system detects a user-specific identification device within a predetermined area, such that upon detection of said user-specific identification device said operator

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unit is placed into the first mode of operation via said input, and upon non-detection of said user-specific identification device in said predetermined area, said operator unit is placed into the second mode of operation via said input.

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19. (NEW) A method for controlling an X-ray examining apparatus having a radiation source, a detector, a display unit and a operator unit, said method comprising:

detecting a user-specific identification device in a predetermined area;

selecting a mode of operation based on the detection of said user-specific identification device, wherein said mode of operation controls said X-ray examining apparatus.